



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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Date: July 31, 2018

Attachment 1

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Columbia College
Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Re-Accreditation

Recommended Actions: Recommend that Columbia College be Re-Accredited as a Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the re-accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A re-accreditation site visit was conducted on July 25, 2018, at Columbia College located at 11600 Columbia College Drive in Sonoma, California. The re-accreditation Site Evaluation Team included Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, SFT, and Deputy Chief Jim Eastman, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District-retired, SFT Retired Annuitant. Introductions were facilitated by Fire Technology Coordinator Shane Warner that included College President Dr. Santanu Bandyopadhyay, CTE Dean Dr. Klaus Tenbergen, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Kent Cunningham, Program Instructor Andy Van Hoogmoed, CTE Program Assistant Jennifer Bick, and College student worker Whitney Everhart. A review of the provided Self-Assessment Report was conducted by the Site Evaluation Team followed by a tour of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Columbia College is part of the Yosemite Community College District, serving the 4,000-square mile boundary of Tuolumne and Stanislaus Counties. Recognizing the need for consistent high-quality training, the Fire Technology Program was created through cooperative efforts between local fire chiefs, agencies, and personnel that have contributed to the program design and implementation since 1968. Unique to Columbia College is a fully-functioning fire station staffed by program students that respond to on- and off-campus emergencies with surrounding agencies and jurisdictions. The College also maintains an on-site dormitory for use by out-of-area enrollees.

Columbia College works collaboratively with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties Fire Chiefs Associations, Tuolumne County and Mother Lode Interagency Training Officers Associations, the United States Forest Service, CAL FIRE, local agencies, and the College Fire Technology Advisory Committee to provide quality education to the community.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space and drill grounds with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. The extended tour included visits to cooperative training facilities at the Sierra Conservation Center, Twain Harte Fire Department, and Sonora City Fire Department.

Columbia College has transitioned to the 2013 Fire Fighter I curriculum and is positioning itself to participate in ongoing testing, with resources suitable for certification examinations. Several Registered Instructors participate in the Academy delivery and Columbia College intends to begin hosting additional SFT courses at its facility in conjunction with neighboring agencies and jurisdictions. Student records and training archives remain secured at the training facility in accordance with SFT requirements. The training facility presents an academy classroom equipped with suitable audio/visual equipment and tiered-seating conducive to learning. Students are outfitted with personal safety gear and equipment compliant with NFPA standards.

The best practices observed by the Site Evaluation Team included a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to serve the community. Columbia College recognizes the unique training opportunities provided students given their surroundings and understands the importance of fostering interagency partnerships. Columbia College has a strong focus on recruitment and development as exemplified in its pre-apprenticeship program preparing grade school-age students for entrance into a formal academy setting through instruction, job shadowing/ride-alongs, support and information services, and hands-on learning.

Columbia College has demonstrated a strong devotion to training that is indicative of a progressive training organization. SFT recommends re-accreditation of Columbia College as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the SFT system.